

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-12 are pending. Support for claim 10 can be found at page 1, lines 13-17. Support for claims 11 and 12 can be found at page 5, lines 28-31.

Support for claim 13 can be found in original claim 1 and at page 5, line 42 to page 6, line 2.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Dragner et al. (US 5,354,803).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Initially, applicants request reconsideration of the remarks filed with the amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 of October 14, 2004.

Dragner et al. relates to a surfactantless non-formaldehyde binder emulsion for nonwoven fabrics comprising polyvinyl alcohol graft copolymers. Dragner et al. teaches a number of suitable monomers including, but not limited to ethyl acrylate, methyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, ethyl methacrylate, vinyl acetate, styrene, methyl methacrylate, hydroxy ethyl acrylate, hydroxy propyl acrylate and other common monomers (column 2, lines 51-63). Of these, only hydroxy ethyl acrylate and hydroxy propyl acrylate would seem to meet the definition of hydroxy-C₁-C₆-alkyl(meth)acrylate as claimed in the present claim 1. Applicants urge that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have at once envisaged, nor would one have been motivated to select such compounds from the long list supplied by Dragner et al. Applicants note that Dragner et al.'s Examples do not use these monomers, but rather

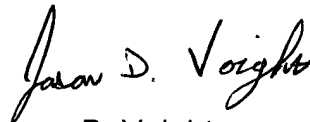
ANGEL et al., Ser. No. 09/964,796

disclose methyl methacrylate and butyl acrylate monomers. Additionally, Dragner et al.'s polymers are used as binders for nonwoven fabrics for, e.g., roofing mats (column 4, lines 37-41). Such disclosure shows a lack of recognition in the art that use of hydroxy alkyl acrylate monomers in large amounts would lead to water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymers, as required by the present invention. As such Dragner et al. would have led one of ordinary skill in the art away from selecting such monomers as required by the instant claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jason D. Voight". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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